

From Our Friends

NETHERLANDS GROUP: The following report has been received from Miss Sidonie Reiss:

"With great pleasure I have accepted the invitation of the *Individual Psychology Bulletin* to give a report on the activities of the *Nederlandse Werkgemeenschap voor Individualpsychologie* (The Netherlands Workshop for Individual Psychology) of which I had been a member until I left the Netherlands for this country in May, 1948.

"After the liberation of the Netherlands at the beginning of 1946, the few surviving Individual Psychologists founded the Netherlands Workshop for Individual Psychology. The next step was the establishment of a two year training course for Individual Psychology in September, 1946. There were nine lecturers, five physicians, two teachers, two psychologists, all members of the N.W. Remembering that the beginning of our work in the Netherlands was mentioned in the *Bulletin* at an earlier period, I give the following information in accordance with the annual report of 1948, received from Amsterdam.

"At the beginning of 1948 the N.W. had twelve members and eight associate members. After having passed their finals twelve of the students became associate members. New members were admitted to the lecturing staff, while two members left the N.W. for America: Mrs. deVries for Los Angeles, and myself for New York.

"The N.W. had at least one meeting each month on which occasion a lecture was given and actual problems were discussed.

"In order to propagate Individual Psychology a week end course took place in the *Internationale School van Wijsbegeerte* (International School of Philosophy) at Amersfoort on June 5 and 6. The following lectures were given:

- Individual Psychology and Family
- Individual Psychology and Medicine
- Individual Psychology and School
- Philosophical Foundations of Individual Psychology

"This week end was so great a success that Prof. Mennicke, head of the School of Philosophy, suggested that such a meeting should be organized by the International School of Philosophy every year.

"On the occasion of the visit of Dr. Lydia Sicher from Los Angeles a special week end was arranged on October 2 and 3, also in the School of Philosophy at Amersfoort, at which Dr. Sicher gave a lecture on 'Problems of Today's Living Together, in the Light of Individual Psychology.' This week end also proved to be very successful.

"From various places in the Netherlands lecturers were required to give lectures on Individual Psychology. Twenty-six students (eighteen women and eight men) attended the two-year course. The students were: social workers, heads and supervisors of kindergartens, school teachers (men and women),

assistants of psychotechnical institutes, youth leaders, students of psychology and one graphologist. Fifteen students received diplomas after passing the final examinations of the two-year course. On the suggestion of some of those who had received their diplomas, a three-year course was arranged for which fifteen (twelve women and three men) were enrolled.

"The *Amsterdam Studiekring* (Study Group) arranged six public lectures on the main topic: 'The Crisis of Modern Man,' which was dealt with by six different speakers. The discussions were exceedingly lively.

"Study Groups at Haarlem, Utrecht, Den Haag, Dordrecht, Arnhem worked successfully.

"On September 12, 1948, a Consultation Center was established in Amsterdam, Valkenburgerstr. 139, which is open to the public every Wednesday afternoon. The attendance is satisfactory. Some psychiatrists send cases; youth welfare organizations and other social agencies are interested, which seems to open good prospects for the future. It is being planned to give students the opportunity to observe the practical work in the Center.

"There is a Consultation Center in Haarlem, also working satisfactorily. Good results have also been reported of the *Adler-Huis* (Adler House) at Amersfoort under the leadership of Dr. med. Spaander-Duyvis."

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Elisabeth Sorge-Boehmke reports that she was called to Geerthacht a/Elbe to work as child guidance worker within the public school system, primarily for the elementary schools. In this capacity she also has the opportunity to discuss child guidance problems with the teachers of the secondary schools.

In her report Miss Sorge emphasizes that even after a short period she can see how important the work is and how the children are being helped by it.

Her article, "Something about Consultation Centers for Children" appeared recently in a woman's magazine in Hanover, Germany. Miss Sorge has had twenty-five years practical work in Individual Psychology. During the Hitler regime she was faced with unbelievably difficult conditions in her work, but she carried through with high courage.

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Paul Plottke reports from Kent, England that he will give a twelve week course in psychology at the Culverden House Adult Education Center. This course has been arranged in conjunction with the Adlerian Society of Great Britain.

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Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs has been appointed lecturer on child guidance at Northwestern University.

Edward Schneider reports from San Francisco:

For the second time within a year Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs came to lecture to the California Bay Region. When he came here in December 1948, Individual Psychology was for the most a faint memory. Alfred Adler had given classes at the Williams College in Berkeley from 1933 to 1936. The older generation remembered these lectures well, but no further inroads were made since then. Before Dr. Dreikurs came the first time, there was some hesitation on the part of the groups who considered inviting him to speak. After these first lectures, his second appearance in September 1949 was well anticipated. The Mental Hygiene Association of Northern California arranged lectures for him in San Francisco and Berkeley; and the Department of Psychiatry of the Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco opened its gates and admitted an "Adlerian." Dr. Dreikurs spoke before a capacity crowd of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, physicians, and nurses. His lecture was very well received, and several speakers declared that the barriers between Psychoanalysis and Individual Psychology should be regarded as a thing of the past. Dr. Dreikurs' lectures and their reception opened the way for Adlerian psychology in this area. Although Individual Psychology had been taught at the Lincoln University and the Williams College by me, only now are wider professional circles becoming openly interested in Individual Psychology. Adlerian literature is now very much in demand. The first Adlerian Child Guidance Clinic is contemplated in one of the Community Centers in San Francisco, provided the necessary funds will be available. There are requests for additional lectures in the future.